

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 519
By Sharp

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate East Ridge High School girls' volleyball coach Catherine Neely on winning the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association, Division 1, Class AAA State Tournament.

WHEREAS, "legendary", "great" and "outstanding" are three terms that should only be used on limited occasions to describe a select group of high school athletic coaches, those who have firmly established a lengthy tradition of rarely equaled excellence; and

WHEREAS, one coach who is unquestionably deserving of those accolades is Catherine Neely, whose East Ridge girls' volleyball team won the 1997 Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association, Division 1, Class AAA state championship; and

WHEREAS, now in her 34th year as a coach at East Ridge, Coach Neely has compiled an enviable overall record of 881 victories, making her the winningest high school volleyball coach in Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, she has an exemplary winning percentage of .740; and

WHEREAS, following her 1997 team's 53-9 record, she was appropriately honored as the state Volleyball Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, her admirable record as head volleyball coach includes having two state runners-up teams, three state Final Four squads, 7 state tournament participants, six sub-state

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wins, 8 sub-state appearances, 7 regional tournament champions, 9 regional tournament runners-up, 9 district tournament champions, and 12 district tournament runners-up; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, this popular and highly regarded coach has carefully trained her team members to be winners on the volleyball courts and in the court of life; and

WHEREAS, she has had one All-American player, two All-State Most Valuable Players, 21 All-State honorees, 50 All-Region selections, and 76 All-District choices; and

WHEREAS, in both 1996 and 1997, Coach Neely was named East Ridge High School teacher of the Year and Hamilton County Secondary Teacher of the Year; and

WHEREAS, she was inducted into the prestigious National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame in 1996, the biggest honor a high school coach can receive; Coach Neely also joined the elite Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association Old Timers Hall of Fame in 1996; and in 1993, she became a member of the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely was also named the Scrappy Moore Volleyball Coach of the Year (1986, 1988, 1989, and 1996), All-Star Volleyball Match Coach (1989 and 1992), *Chattanooga Times* and *Free Press* Volleyball Coach of the Year (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1995, 1996, and 1997) and District Volleyball Coach of the Year (1984-1989, 1995, 1996, and 1997); and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely's superb athletic record also includes service as a basketball coach, with 624 wins; her team's have won three district titles and finished as district runner-up four other seasons; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely received her Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga in 1964 and her Master of Education Degree, summa cum laude, from that fine institution in 1979; and

WHEREAS, she has been a Physical Education, Health and Wellness teacher at East Ridge since 1964. She has a much deserved reputation as a hard-working and compassionate individual, whose primary focus is to help persons become successful once they leave East Ridge; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely has displayed tremendous leadership and motivational skills as a TSSAA registered volleyball official since 1986; as department chairperson since 1976; as chairperson for the School Improvement Plan since 1987; as chairperson for the southern Association 10 Year Evaluations from 1983-1993; as chairperson for the Southern Association Five-year Follow-up Evaluations since 1988; as a member of the Site-Based Decision Making Council from 1994-1995; and as a valued member of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee for 1998; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely served as a member of the important committee to develop city and county wellness standards for the merged school system from 1996-1997; she has also worked diligently as an in-service training instructor for Chattanooga City physical education teachers from 1980-1981; helped implement the uniform dress code requirements for East Ridge physical education classes in 1981; and in 1991 developed and implemented the curriculum for Advanced Physical Education, currently being taught at East Ridge; and

WHEREAS, in the fine tradition of the Volunteer State, Coach Neely has generously contributed her time and expertise to improve high school volleyball as a member of the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association since 1984; as volleyball chairperson since 1989; as director of the Volleyball All-Star Series each summer; as a member of the Tennessee Volleyball Coaches Association since 1990; as a charter member and group president from 1991-1992; as the American Volleyball Coaches Association Tennessee High School Representative since 1985; as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Tennessee High School Representative from 1983-1996; as the All-Star Selection Committee member for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association since 1993; and as the TSSAA district chairperson for basketball and volleyball; as a TSSAA State Volleyball Tournament Director since 1986; and as the TSSAA Calendar Committee Representative in 1994; and

WHEREAS, she has also served admirably as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Tennessee High School Representative from 1983-1996; as the All-Star Selection Committee member for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association since 1993; and as the District 6 3-A chairperson for all sports; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished educator has also been active in the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, and the Hamilton County Education Association, all since 1964; she has also been active in the American Association of Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance from 1964-1997; and

WHEREAS, Coach Neely has been a member of the Burke United Methodist Church since 1948; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to recognize this very special coach; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Catherine Neely and wish her well in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.